
Native Trees of Trinidad and Tobago

Victor C. Quesnel and T. Francis Farrell Published by
The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club

155 pp.

Before "Native Trees of Trinidad and Tobago" appeared, there had only been a handful of books published about the flora of Trinidad and Tobago. They were usually written for professional foresters and botanists, and if they were illustrated, it was either by drawings or black and white photographs. It was difficult for the average field naturalist to appreciate these books.

Now, a book that can be appreciated by all nature lovers has come along. Written by Dr. Victor C. Quesnel and T. Francis Farrell, two of the country's foremost field naturalists, "Native Trees" contains a wealth of information. The text is very interesting and easy to read, and the excellent color photographs by Dr. Paul L. Comeau make the trees easily recognizable.

As many as 386 trees are native to Trinidad and Tobago, so it was quite a task for the authors to decide which should be included in the book. Those selected all stand out in some way, either by their unusual flowers, fruit foliage or sheer abundance, which make them likely to be spotted in the forests.

Maps showing the locations of various types of forests are used along with a color code to indicate where these trees can be found. The botanical, as well as local, name is given for each tree, which is introduced with an interesting anecdote followed by

a comprehensive description of its botanical features, ecology and uses.

The accuracy of the information provided by the authors cannot be doubted, as it is obvious that they have done a great deal of research and are very familiar with the trees that they describe.

"Native Trees of Trinidad and Tobago" is one book that no local tree lover or field naturalist should be without.

Johnny Lee
